

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31) and Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) released the following statements responding to reports released this week by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and National Taxpayer Advocate recommending new registration, competency, and continuing education requirements for tax return preparers. Rep. Becerra and Sen. Bingaman are senior members of the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committees, respectively, and have long promoted the rights of taxpayers.

“Taxpayers deserve to know that when they pay someone to prepare and file their taxes, that person is reputable and competent. I commend the IRS for studying this issue and recommending a strategy to elevate standards and increase oversight of some tax preparers. However, as the National Taxpayer Advocate’s Annual Report clearly shows, we must implement a plan that applies to all tax preparers—whether they prepare the return or simply sign it. This year I will introduce legislation that will require all tax preparers to register with the IRS and meet basic competency and continuing education requirements. America’s taxpayers deserve nothing less,” Rep. Becerra said.

“I applaud the IRS for taking an important first step in requiring the registration of some paid tax preparers. But I agree wholeheartedly with the National Taxpayer Advocate that the IRS announcement does not go far enough. To protect the millions of Americans who rely each year on paid tax preparers, we must require all tax preparers to register and meet basic competency requirements. Too many New Mexicans have been victimized by dishonest or unqualified tax preparers. I will soon reintroduce legislation in the Senate to ensure basic protections for taxpayers in New Mexico and across the United States,” U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman said.

- To read the Internal Revenue Service’s report, released Monday, [click here.](#)
- To read the National Taxpayer Advocate’s report, released today, [click here.](#)